

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02189 061645Z

62

ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-01 EUR-08 /042 W

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R 061630Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 390

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR SL

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COFERENCE - SIERRA LEONEAN
PARTICIPATION

REF: A. STATE 237804 B. DEPT A-7901

1. DEPT GUIDANCE ON USG POSITIONS AT WFC NOT RECEIVED
IN TIME TO DISCUSS WITH GOSL DELEGATION PRIOR THEIR
DEPARTURE FOR ROME. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT
USDEL WILL FIND GOSL DEL THINKING VERY SIMILAR TO
OURS ON RESES I AND II AND THAT MAJOR DIVERGENCE
BETWEEN USDEL AND GOSL DEL VIEWS LIKELY BE IN GOSL
DESIRE ATTEMPT MAXIMIZE DC CONTRIBUTIONS AND OBLIGA-
TIONS TO ASSIST LDC'S AND IMPROVE LDC TERMS OF TRADE
AND PROBABLE GOSL SUPPORT FOR SOME FORM OF FOLLOW-UP
ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD KEEP PRESSURE ON TO INCREASE
DC OBLIGATIONS.

2. GOSL, UNDER EXTREME BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PRESSURE,
IS RECENTLY CONVERT TO PRIORITY FOR DOMESTIC AGRICUL-
TURAL DEVELOPMENT. NEW FIVE YEAR PLANS GIVES HIGHEST
PRIORITY TO FOOD PRODUCTION IN EFFORT OBVIATE NEED
FOR IMPORTS IN RECENT YEARS AVERAGING ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF
CONSUMPTION OF RICE, WHICH IS MAIN STAPLE. GOSL HAS RECENTLY
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PAGE 02 FREETO 02189 061645Z

SET REALISTIC FARMER SUPPORT PRICES IN RICE, SOME

EXPORT CROPS AND EXPECTED VERY SHORTLY TO SET PRICES FOR OTHER WHICH WILL GREATLY INCREASE FARMER INCENTIVES. TOGETHER WITH HIGH PRIORITY FOR CRASH PROGRAM DEVELOP EXTENSIVE BUT HERETOFOR NEGLECTED INLAND SWAMPS FOR WET RICE CULTIVATION, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION SIMPLE WATER CONTROL AND IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY WHICH PREVIOUSLY COMPLETELY ABSENT, PRICE INCENTIVES COULD SHORTLY MAKE SIERRA LEONE A RICE SURPLUS COUNTRY AND A MORE SIGNIFICANT EXPORTER OF CASH CROPS.

3. GOSL DEL OF FIVE WILL BE LED BY MIN AGRICULTURE S.A.T. KOROMA, WHO STRONG SUPPORTER OF SWAMP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ASSISTED BY PERM SEC GEORGE MASON. OLSON

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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